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Executive Director: Allison Logan

TESTIMONY OF Allison Logan, BS-ED, MS

Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

Public Hearing Testimony: **SB487 An Act Establishing the Infant and Toddler Early Care and Family Support Initiative**  
March 28, 2022

Dear Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Allison Logan and I am the Executive Director of Bridgeport Prospers, a cradle to career, collective impact movement in Bridgeport, CT. We are a collaborative of community and parent leaders dedicated to improving the health, well-being, and engagement of Bridgeport families from cradle to career.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of **SB487**. This bill would redirect existing tax revenue from the budget reserve to a new non lapsing Early Care and Family Support account. Funds in this account would then be used to contract with child care providers both centers and family child care homes to increase the supply of high quality infant toddler care. Priority will be given to child care providers in lower income child care deserts.

Over the last few years, my work in Bridgeport has focused in the prenatal to three space, with our outcome goal that all babies in Bridgeport will be healthy and reach developmental milestones by age three. Recognizing that there is scant evidence that any one single action, support or intervention will result in the level of family and systems change imagined for Bridgeport's babies, our birth to three community action team proposed an innovative, values-anchored, science-informed baby "bundle." The framework is anchored in the neuroscience of trauma to resilience, along with a bundle of comprehensive, whole-family supports and practices- represents a sweeping, systemic change effort to equip young children and their families in Connecticut's largest city with the supports they need to thrive. **Increasing infant and toddler care and support for families is one of the key bundle components.**

This work focuses on the research that the first 3 years of life is crucial for brain development and children enrolled in high quality infant/toddler care can be a very big catalyst for on target development. Our 2020 data shows that currently in Bridgeport, we have an approximate population of 7315 infants and toddlers, with an infant toddler slot capacity of 1015, which is only 13.8%. The impact of a lack of infant/toddler care has a detrimental impact on parents, children and the economy. The current low payment levels for high quality care have prevented providers from filling the infant toddler care gap that has existed for several years in Bridgeport.

In closing, I urge you to support **SB487 An Act Establishing the Infant and Toddler Early Care and Family Support Initiative**

Sincerely,

Allison Logan, BS-ED, MS

Executive Director- Bridgeport Prospers

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